

News Release
Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging
For Immediate Release

Key Bush Official to Open State White House Conference on Aging

The Bush Administration's key official for older Americans and their concerns, HHS Assistant Secretary for Aging Josefina G. Carbonell, will deliver the opening address April 25 at South Carolina's White House Conference on Aging.

"When South Carolina's senior community gathers in Myrtle Beach to debate how our state should respond over the next decade as the Baby Boomers become the Senior Boom, they will have both the ear and the counsel of the person who is directly responsible at the federal level for the policies impacting our seniors' concerns," said Lt. Governor André Bauer.

The three day event will be televised live by SC ETV's digital SC channel, beginning Monday night with the remarks of Carbonell, who oversees the Administration on Aging and this fall's national White House Conference on Aging.

"Also joining us at the State Conference in Myrtle Beach's Springmaid Beach will be Scott Nystrom, who is the executive director of the national White House Conference on Aging," said Bauer, who is the top official for aging in South Carolina. "Dr. Nystrom will follow me on the agenda April 26, after I open our general working session with my vision of the impact of seniors both today and tomorrow upon our state."

ETV cameras will follow approximately 400 delegates and observers as they spend time Tuesday in general session, before breaking out into 10 discussion groups to explore the policies, pathways and priorities South Carolina should adopt in preparation for its current 660,000 citizens older than 65 doubling to 1.3 million over the next 20 years. Delegates will formally adopt policies on Wednesday morning before concluding the conference.

South Carolina's recommendations will be carried to the national White House Conference on Aging next fall, when the nation ponders how to prepare for the 78 million baby boomers nearing retirement. Baby boomers, who will start turning 60 next year, are expected to place unprecedented demands on the aging system as they become eligible for the programs and services of the Older Americans Act. The first wave of boomers becomes eligible for Medicare beginning in 2011.

President Bush has called for the national White House Conference on Aging to be held Oct. 23-26 in Washington. Such conferences occur once a decade to make aging policy recommendations to the President and Congress, and to assist the public and private sectors in promoting dignity, health, independence, and economic security of current and future generations of older Americans. Past White House Conferences on Aging have contributed to the establishment of many key aging programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, the Older Americans Act, the Supplemental Security Income Program, and the National Institute on Aging.

In the last decade, helped to some degree by the resolutions adopted by the 1995 White House Conference on Aging, Congress has enacted historic new policies and programs on aging, including a prescription drug benefit under Medicare, a National Family Caregiver Support Program under the Older Americans Act, and the repeal of the outside earnings limitation under Social Security which penalized older workers.

For more information on the 2005 South Carolina White House Conference on Aging, see the Lt. Governor's Office of Aging website:

<http://www.aging.sc.gov/SCWHCOA/Index.htm>

For the schedule of activities at the 2005 State White House Conference on Aging, see:

<http://www.aging.sc.gov/SCWHCOA/Schedule.htm>

For a bio of Assistant Secretary Josefina G. Carbonell, see:

http://www.aoa.gov/about/org/org_asst_sec.asp

For a bio of White House Conference on Aging Executive Director Dr. Scott Nystrom, see:

http://www.whcoa.gov/about/exec_director.asp

For more information on the national White House Conference on Aging, see:

<http://www.whcoa.gov>

Frank Adams, Lieutenant Governor's Office on Aging, 803 734 9912.